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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter Improves Severe Weather Safety

Residents of east-central Indiana can feel safer when severe weather threatens, thanks to a new NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter recently installed in the Muncie area. Severe weather alerts and forecasts will be broadcast by the transmitter to residents of seven area counties.

The 1,000-watt transmitter will broadcast the latest weather information to Delaware, Madison, Henry, Randolph, Jay, Blackford, and Grant counties, according to warning coordination meteorologist Dave Tucek at NOAA's Indianapolis weather forecast office. The transmitter broadcasts on a frequency of 162.425 MHz.

"Our technicians completed installation work October 22," Tucek said, "and we have operated the transmitter in an unofficial test mode to ensure everything is in top working order. Broadcasts have been available to everyone within a 40-mile broadcast range since we started it up. We are now ready to take the final step of designating this as the official NOAA Weather Radio transmitter for Muncie and east-central Indiana."

The transmitter is located on a radio tower owned by Ball State University near Muncie, according to Tucek. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards forecast and warning broadcast coverage previously supplied by radio transmitters in Indianapolis and Marion will continue the same coverage they always have. The new radio will provide a stronger signal and better coverage for the area.

"Installation and operation of this transmitter allows us to provide east-central Indiana better protection and the latest weather information," said Dan McCarthy, meteorologist in charge at the Indianapolis weather forecast office. "We had to go through a detailed process to find the best tower location and best support for operational and maintenance needs. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is as close as we come to knocking on your door to tell you a tornado or winter storm will be affecting your area."